

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. – 35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 0.3 mm.

37. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 4 mm and wherein said panel is configured as a three-dimensionally shaped moulded part and is injection-moulded or pressed from synthetic material

38. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound- reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said panel is configured as a three-dimensionally shaped moulded part of an underbody lining of motor vehicles.

39. (New) Sound shielding element according to claim 36, wherein said perforations are configured as narrow or fine slots having width between 0.02 and 0.18 mm and a length between 0.02 and 30 mm.

40. (New) Sound shielding element according to claim 39, wherein said slots have width between 0.08 and 0.15 mm and slot length between 0.8 and 2.2 mm and are disposed at an offset at a spacing transversely to a longitudinal extension by less than half the slot length.

41. (New) Sound shielding element according to claim 36, wherein said panel or layer is three-dimensionally shaped without cutting by stretching.

42. (New) Sound shielding element according to claim 36, wherein said panel or layer is deep-drawn from a planar plate, board, tape, strip or sheet.

43. (New) Sound shielding element according to claim 36, wherein said panel or layer is provided with said perforations in a sieve- like or raster-like form.

44. (New) Sound shielding element according to claim 36, wherein said panel or layer comprises aluminum, steel sheet, ceramic or a highly temperature-resistant synthetic material.

45. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is used as roof lining in a passenger compartment of motor vehicles.

46. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is used as an injection-moulded cover unit for covering cables.

47. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and  
a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;  
wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and  
wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is a hat rack in motor vehicles.

48. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and  
a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;  
wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and  
wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is a seat cover in motor vehicles.

49. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and  
a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;  
wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and  
wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is a door lining.

50. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is an absorbing tube for air-conducting tubes.

51. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering said perforations initiate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is a cover for covering at least one part of an internal combustion engine.

52. (New) Sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space or for covering at least one sound-reflecting or sound-generating structural parts, comprising:

at least one panel or layer; and

a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer;

wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.01 and 5 % so that sound waves entering

said perforations illuminate physical effects in a gas volume contained in said perforations and

wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 1 mm and wherein said element is a thermal shielding element.

53. (New) Method of producing a sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighboring room or space, the sound shielding element including at least one panel or layer and a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer, wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.001 and 0.7 mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.001 and 8 %, the method comprising forming said panel or layer by fusing or bonding particles or fibers.

54. (New) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to claim 53, wherein said panel or layer is produced by weaving threads formed of fibers.

55. (New) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to claim 53, wherein said panel is produced by impregnating a textile tissue with a thermoplastic material and moulding into a three-dimensional shape.

56. (New) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to claim 53, wherein said plurality of perforations are produced by electric discharges using an electric arc through said panel or layer.

57. (New) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to claim 53, wherein said plurality of perforations are produced by bombardment of said panel or layer with particles.

58. (New) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to claim 53, wherein said plurality of perforations are produced by means of a needle or cutter blocks.

59. (New) Method according to claim 58, wherein distortions or said perforation in said panel or layer are closed by pressing by shaping rollers.